

2/16/2012

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of HB2584. HB2584 does two things, it repeals the ban on switchblade knives and it establishes knife law preemption.

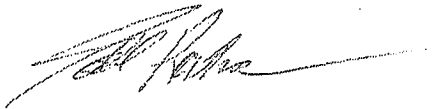
The possession of a knife in Kansas is not just a common practice, as it may be in other states, but in many cases the possession of a knife in Kansas is a necessity for farmers, ranchers and tradesmen and tradeswomen.

Kansas currently has a prohibition on the possession of switchblade knives. Switchblade knives are technically no more dangerous than any other knife. Generally a switchblade or "automatic" knife simply allows the user to deploy the knife with one hand. For the rancher, farmer, hunter or fisherman this is not just a convenience, but it can also be a lifesaver. For first responders like police and firefighters we know for sure that they are lifesavers. The bans on switchblades are not based on any real crime data, rather they were based upon over-emotional reaction to popular movies, television and other references to them in popular culture back in the 1950s, references that bore little relation to real life. If you think about it, a fixed blade sheath knife is much faster and easier to deploy than any switchblade knife. We see the fixed blade knife on the belt of almost every hunter in Kansas. The irrational bans on switchblade knives should be repealed because there is no data to support these emotional bans.

Because knives are so prevalent in Kansas and possession is so common, knife laws around the state should be consistent. What is legal in Kansas City should be legal in Garden City. Kansans should be able to know that the law is consistent statewide. Law enforcement should know what is legal to possess and what is not. That is why knife preemption makes sense, in the same way that existing firearms preemption does..

As we have seen in recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings, the Second Amendment is an individual right and that right has been incorporated to apply in the states. For this reason alone, all states should have knife preemption laws to assure that citizens are protected from onerous local laws, which infringe on their rights.

It is for these reasons, as well as others, that Knife Rights strongly urges you to vote YES on HB2584.



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Knife Rights, Director of Legislative Affairs

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Committee
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